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## 【各地鹤讯】

## Brief Notes on Observations of the Autumn 2012 Demoiselle Crane Migration at Qinghai Lake, China

Although a fairly common sight in summer on the grasslands of Mongolia and elsewhere on the Eurasian Steppes from the Black Sea to Northeast China, the Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*) only occurs in small numbers at Qinghai Lake (elevation 3195 m). Perhaps 25 of these cranes are known to stopover or summer at the lake, primarily in the open fields and pastures of southern Gangcha County on the northwest corner of the lake, particularly in the vicinity of the Naren Wetland on the lower Yikewulan River. In six previous summer visits to various locations at Qinghai Lake from 2010-2012, the author's only earlier sighting of the Demoiselle Crane was on September 2, 2012. This sighting was made

about 3.5 km north of Heima He Township in the southwest corner of the lake, where a group of three Demoiselle Cranes was seen feeding in a pasture area about 30 m from the lakeshore itself.

On the evening of September 30, 2012, however, while at a point about 300 m below the summit of the highest peak of the Xiangpi Shan Ridge visible from the town of Heima He 14.5 km to the north (approximate summit elevation 4635 m), the author first heard, then observed, a group of several hundred migrating Demoiselle Cranes. These cranes circled their way upward over the slopes of the ridge in a westerly direction from the lakeshore below, in manner nearly



paralleling the ridge. The group approached the summit as an amorphous swarm although several single line and V-formations appeared briefly at the front of the group as it circled upward. But once reaching the same elevation as the ridge summit, the entire flock retreated eastward in a descending fashion, apparently to an area of the lakeshore from which it had just come.

At about 10:30 AM on the morning of October 1, 2012, the author again heard the high-pitched cacophony of several hundred approaching Demoiselle Cranes. They were simultaneously moving in a westward direction that again nearly paralleled the ridge, flying low over ridge slopes as they had the previous evening, and apparently continued westward along the next valley to the south towards Chaka Yan Hu Lake. The cranes approached the author's observation point in two distinct groups, with counts made afterwards from digital photos showing the lead group to consist of 154 cranes while the second group consisted of 190 cranes,

making for a total of 344, with a varying distance of perhaps 300-500 m separating the two groups.

As the weather on the evening of September 30 was perfectly clear with little wind and ground conditions were well illuminated by a full moon, the approach of the ridge made that evening by the cranes was presumably a trial ascent. This may have been done to test weather conditions for migration.

On October 2, 2012, 6 Black-necked Cranes were observed at the Heima He Wetland, and 72 Black-necked Cranes were observed at the Quanwan Wetland just southeast of Shinaihai Township at the western-most point of Qinghai Lake on October 3, 2012. Consequently it appears that in this instance, the main autumn Demoiselle Crane migration began significantly earlier than for Black-necked Cranes in northwest China.

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## 白鹤在呼伦贝尔分布状况略记

白鹤在呼伦贝尔地区的文献记载较少, 仅粗略记载以下资料:《中国鸟类分布名录》可能繁殖于呼伦贝尔盟(郑作新, 1976);《中国鸟类分类分布名录》记录于内蒙古东北部(郑光美, 2005);《中国鸟类野外手册》迁徙路过呼伦贝尔地区(约翰·马敬能等, 2000);《内蒙古动物志·第三卷·鸟纲非雀形目》(旭日干, 2007)。

白鹤在内蒙古达赉湖国家级自然保护区(以下简称达赉湖保护区)有过调查记录。达赉湖保护区成立于1986年, 当年开展了为期一年的鸟类资源普查工作。调查过程中在达赉湖南岸的嘎拉达白辛和乌尔逊河中游的乌兰诺尔分

别记录到8只和4只两群共12只白鹤。6-9月期间这些白鹤一直在保护区内的芦苇沼泽边缘觅食, 未见繁殖个体。自2003年以来, 达赉湖保护区管理局在白鹤 GEF 项目、欧盟呼伦贝尔生物多样性保护示范项目、日本丹顶鹤保护和其他小额项目的支持下在呼伦贝尔西部草原区的河流、湖泊湿地开展水鸟调查。十余年的野外调查发现: 白鹤是呼伦贝尔西部草原区的偶见种, 每次仅几只个体记录于额尔古纳河中游的孟克西里洲渚、海拉尔河入额尔古纳河处的阿巴该图、达赉湖保护区的乌兰诺尔、辉河中游等区域, 停留时间很短, 未见繁殖个体。其中, 2012年6-8月期间, 达赉湖保护区的乌兰